AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for editing, comparing, and resolving equations, comprising:

at least one teacher computer that implements a teacher equation editor application that generates a question description and generates at least one answer corresponding to the question description and including at least one of an equation and an expression;

at least one student computer that implements a student equation editor application that generates a response corresponding to the question description and including at least one of a response equation and a response expression;

at least one comparison device that compares the response with the answer and outputs a comparison result; and

a communications network operably connecting the teacher computer, the student computer, and the comparison device.

~~a communications network;~~

~~at least one teacher computer;~~

~~a plurality of student computers,~~

~~wherein each student computer is operably connected to each teacher computer via the communications network, wherein each teacher computer includes an input device a display, and a computer-readable storage medium containing program instructions for implementing a teacher equation editor application that comprises one or more program instructions for performing the steps of:~~

~~receiving a question description via the input device;~~

~~storing the question description;~~

~~receiving one or more answers corresponding to the question description via the input device, wherein each answer includes one or more of an equation and an expression;~~

~~storing the one or more answers;~~

~~receiving a response from one of the plurality of student computers via the communication network;~~

~~comparing the response with the one or more answers corresponding to the question description,~~

~~generating a learning reinforcement signal; and~~

~~displaying the learning reinforcement signal on the display at substantially the same time that the response is compared with the one or more answers.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the teacher <u>computer generates the question via manual operator input.</u> ~~equation editor application comprises one or more program instructions for implementing a communications protocol, wherein the communications protocol controls communication between the teacher computer and the plurality of student computers via the communications network.~~

3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the <u>teacher computer generates the answer via manual operator input.</u> ~~input device for the teacher computer comprises a pointing device.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein the <u>response is selectively rendered from a character syntax to a rendered expression.</u> ~~input device for the teacher computer comprises a keyboard.~~

6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein <u>the comparison device is the teacher computer.</u> ~~storing the question description comprises storing the question description in the computer-readable storage medium of the teacher computer.~~

7. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein <u>the comparison result is transmitted as a learning reinforcement signal to at least one of the teacher computer and the student computer.</u> ~~storing the question description comprises storing the one or more answers in the computer-readable storage medium of the teacher computer.~~

8-18. (Canceled).

19. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 1 wherein the student equation editor application comprises one or more program instructions for performing the steps of:

receiving a question description via the communications network;

displaying the question description on the display corresponding to the student computer; and

receiving one or more responses to the question description via the input device, wherein each response includes one or more of an equation or an expression.

20. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 19 wherein the input device for the student computer comprises a pointing device.

21. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 19 wherein the input device for the student computer comprises a keyboard.

22. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 19 wherein at least one response is received in a character syntax.

23. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 19 wherein at least one response is received in a rendered format.

24. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 19 wherein the student equation editor application further comprises one or more program instructions for transmitting at least one response to the teacher computer via the communications network.

25. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 24 wherein transmitting at least one response occurs at substantially the same time as the at least one response is received via the input device.

26. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 24 wherein the at least one response is transmitted in a character syntax.

27. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 19 wherein the student equation editor application further comprises one or more program instructions for performing the steps of:

receiving one or more answers corresponding to the question description via the communications
     network; and

comparing each response with the one or more answers corresponding to the question
     description.

28. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 27 wherein the student equation editor application further comprises one or more program instructions for performing the steps of:

generating at least one learning reinforcement signal; and

displaying the at least one learning reinforcement signal on the display corresponding to the
     student computer display.

29. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 28 wherein generating at least one reinforcement signal occurs at substantially the same time as at least one response to the question description is received.

30. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 19 wherein the student equation editor application further comprises one or more program instructions for performing the steps of:

receiving at least one learning reinforcement signal from the teacher computer via the
     communications network; and

displaying the at least one learning reinforcement signal on the display corresponding to the
     student computer.

31. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 1 wherein the student equation editor application comprises a web browser application.

32. (Currently Amended) A ~~system~~ method for editing, comparing, and resolving equations, comprising:

operably interconnecting a communications network, a teacher computer, a student computer,
     and a comparison device;

implementing with the teacher computer a teacher equation editor application that generates a
    question description and generates at least one answer corresponding to the question
    description and including at least one of an equation and an expression;

implementing with the student computer a student equation editor application that generates a
    response corresponding to the question description and including at least one of a
    response equation and a response expression;

using the comparison device to compare the response with the answer and output a comparison
    result.

~~a communications network;~~

~~at least one teacher computer;~~

~~a plurality of student computers; and~~

~~a comparison device,~~

~~wherein each student computer, each teacher computer and the comparison device are operably~~
    ~~interconnected via the communications network, wherein each teacher computer includes~~
    ~~an input device, a display, and a computer-readable storage medium containing program~~
    ~~instructions for implementing a teacher equation editor application that comprises one or~~
    ~~more program instructions for performing the steps of:~~

~~receiving a question description via the input device~~ ,

~~storing the question description;~~

~~receiving one or more answers corresponding to the question description via the input device~~ ,
    ~~wherein each answer includes one or more of an equation and an expression~~ ,

~~storing the one or more answers;~~

~~receiving a learning reinforcement signal from the comparison device; and~~

~~displaying the learning reinforcement signal on the display at substantially the same time that the~~
    ~~learning reinforcement signal is received, and~~

~~wherein the comparison device includes a computer-readable medium and a comparison~~
    ~~application comprising one or more program instructions for performing the steps of:~~

~~receiving a response from one of the plurality of student computers via the communications~~
    ~~network;~~

~~comparing the response with the one or more answers corresponding to the question description~~ ,

~~generating the learning reinforcement signal;~~ ~~and~~

~~transmitting the learning reinforcement signal at substantially the same time that the response is compared.~~

33. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 32 <u>further comprising generating the question via manual operator input.</u> ~~wherein the teacher equation editor application comprises one or more program instructions for implementing a communications protocol, wherein the communications protocol controls communication between the at least one teacher computer, the plurality of student computers and the comparison device via the communications network.~~

34. (Canceled).

35. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 32 <u>further comprising generating the answer via manual operator input.</u> ~~wherein the input device for the teacher computer comprises a pointing device.~~

36. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 32 <u>further comprising selectively rendering the response from a character syntax to a rendered expression.</u> ~~wherein the input device for the teacher computer comprises a keyboard.~~

37. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 32 <u>further comprising transmitting the comparison result as a learning reinforcement signal to at least one of the teacher computer and the student computer.</u> ~~wherein storing the question description comprises storing the question description in the computer readable storage medium of the teacher computer.~~

38. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ <u>computer program product</u> of claim ~~32~~ <u>61 further comprising code means for generating the question via manual operator input.</u> ~~wherein storing the one or more answers comprises storing the one or more answers in the computer readable storage medium of the teacher computer.~~

39. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ computer program product of claim ~~32~~ 61 further comprising code means for generating the answer via manual operator input. ~~wherein storing the question description comprises storing the question description in the computer-readable storage medium of the comparison device.~~

40. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ computer program product of claim ~~32~~ 61 further comprising code means for selectively rendering the response from a character syntax to a rendered expression. ~~wherein storing the one or more answers comprises storing the one or more answers in the computer-readable storage medium of the comparison device.~~

41. (Currently Amended) The ~~system~~ computer program product of claim ~~32~~ 61 further comprising code means for transmitting the comparison result as a learning reinforcement signal to at least one of the teacher computer and the student computer. ~~wherein the teacher equation editor application further comprises one or more program instructions for transmitting the question description to each student computer via the communications network.~~

42-50. (Canceled).

51. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 32 wherein the student equation editor application comprises one or more program instructions for performing the steps of:
receiving a question description via the communications network;
displaying the question description on the display corresponding to the student computer; and
receiving one or more responses to the question description via the input device, wherein each
      response includes one or more of an equation and an expression.

52. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 51 wherein the input device for the student computer comprises a pointing device.

53. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 51 wherein the input device for the student computer comprises a keyboard.

54. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 51 wherein at least one response is received in a character syntax.

55. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 51 wherein at least one response is received in a rendered format.

56. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 51 wherein the student equation editor application further comprises one or more program instructions for transmitting at least one response to the comparison device via the communications network.

57. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 56 wherein transmitting at least one response occurs at substantially the same time as the at least one response is received via the input device.

58. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 56 wherein the at least one response is transmitted in a character syntax.

59. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 51 wherein the student equation editor application further comprises one or more program instructions for receiving at least one learning reinforcement signal from the comparison device via the communications network.

60. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 32 wherein the student equation editor application comprises a web browser application.

61. (Currently Amended) A ~~method of~~ computer program product for editing, comparing, and resolving equations, comprising [[:]] a computer-readable storage medium containing program instructions tangibly embodied thereon as code means for:

operably interconnecting a communications network, a teacher computer, a student computer, and a comparison device;

implementing with the teacher computer a teacher equation editor application that generates a
    question description and generates at least one answer corresponding to the question
    description and including at least one of an equation and an expression;

implementing with the student computer a student equation editor application that generates a
    response corresponding to the question description and including at least one of a
    response equation and a response expression;

using the comparison device to compare the response with the answer and output a comparison
    result.

~~receiving a question description on a teacher computer system;~~

~~receiving one or more answers on a teacher computer system, wherein each answer comprises~~
~~one or more of an equation and an expression;~~

~~transmitting the question description to a plurality of student computer systems;~~

~~receiving a plurality of responses; and~~

~~for each response:~~

~~determining if the response matches at least one answer; and~~

~~displaying a first reinforcement signal on the teacher computer system at substantially the same~~
~~time that the response is compared with the one or more answers.~~

62-63. (Canceled).

64. (Withdrawn) A method of editing, comparing, and resolving equations comprising:

receiving a question description on a student computer system from a teacher computer system;

displaying the question description;

receiving at least one response to the question description, wherein each response comprises one
    or more of an equation and an expression; and

transmitting the at least one response to the teacher computer system.

65. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 64, further comprising:

receiving at least one learning reinforcement from the teacher computer system.